activities of terrorist organizations from time to time. Besides, bilateral and multilateral steps are taken to counter such activities.

Intelligence failure regarding Naxal attacks

*73. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during December, 2005 although Naxalites and Maoists attacks in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, etc. were countered by respective States Police, there seemed to be an intelligence failure as the intensity and frequency of such attacks indicate;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Home Affairs is evolving a concerted and well co-ordinated approach to deal with this growing Naxal menace; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) While the naxal affected States have stepped up their police response to counter the naxal violence, these States have been asked to improve intelligence gathering and sharing mechanisms to combat this menace more effectively.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view that naxalism is not merely a law & order problem, the Union Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to address this menace simultaneously on political, security and development fronts in a holistic and coordinated manner.

Committee for acquisition of land for cantonments

†*74. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Committee or Board to decide prudently the requirement of land for cantonments or other defence related works or for acquiring land which is actually needed, as it is often seen that excessive land is acquired which remains unutilised for many years and is also not returned to its owners;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider upon setting up such a Committee?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Whenever there is a proposal to acquire land for defence requirements, a Board of Officers is constituted to recommend the requirement of land as per guidelines prescribed by the Government regarding scale of land authorization. Land is acquired according to requirement and authorization. However, since funds for executing various planned projects are not available in bulk, some of the areas which are otherwise zoned for various units/ installations remain vacant, possibly, giving an impression that the land is being unutilized.

(c) Does not arise.

Disappearance of cargo of explosives meant for BRO

*75. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed its probe into the reported disappearance of cargo explosives meant for use by Border Roads Organisation in Afghanistan during its voyage;

(b) if so, the details of the probe findings; and

(c) whether the vessel MV EUGENIA involved in the transit of sensitive cargo had a history of misdeclaration of goods and loitering in the Bay of Bengal for almost a month last July?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Government is conducting an investigation into the loss of the explosive consignment meant for use by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for its project in Afghanistan while it was being shipped from Mumbai to Afghanistan between 22nd and 23rd December, 2005. Six containers containing explosive cargo for the BRO were swept over board from the deck of the ship MV EUGENIA. The manufacturer of the explosives is M/s Premier Explosives Ltd. in accordance with the contractual conditions, the responsibility for the security, shipment, transportation, insurance and delivery to the Project in Afghanistan was that of the manufacturer. BRO